

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 02108 271340Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01

ARA-16 NIC-01 SY-04 SCCT-02 OPR-02 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 052416

O R 271228Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9687

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US PO

SUBJ: JUNTA WEATHERS STORM OVER CONTINUED DETENTION CUBAN

CAPTAIN PERALTA

REF: LISBON 2107 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN FACE FAR-LEFT AGITATION FOR RELEASE CUBAN CAPTAIN PERALTA, JUNTA HAS REMAINED FIRM IN ITS REFUSAL RELEASE HIM, HAS SHOWN ITSELF PREPARED TO USE FORCE, ALBEIT IN MODERATION, TO IMPLEMENT ITS DECISIONS, BUT MAY FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT DEAL WITH ISSUE IF VOICES MORE RESPECTABLE THAN THOSE FROM EXTREME LEFT ARE NOW HEARD FROM. END SUMMARY.

1. ESTRELA SQUARE NEAR LISBON MILITARY HOSPITAL HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL THIS MORNING WITH ONLY HANDFUL OF REORGANIZING MOVEMENT OF PROLETARIAT PARTY (MRPP) MILITANTS STILL IN EVIDENCE, OUTNUMBERED BY STREET CLEANERS SWEEPING UP DEBRIS. DEMONSTRATION HAD GATHERED NEW MOMENTUM AFTERNOON MAY 26, MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 02108 271340Z

CONFLICTS BEING BETWEEN MRPP AND RIVAL LEFTIST GROUPS, ESPECIALLY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEAGUE (LCI). CLIMAX (WITNESSED BY EMBOFF) CAME AT 1800 LOCAL FOLLOWING ULTIMATUM BY LISBON POLICE CHIEF THAT CROWD MUST DISPERSE BY THEN OR FORCE WOULD BE USED. FOLLOWERS OF CERTAIN LEFTIST GROUPS OBEYED BUT MRPP DEFIED ORDER, WHEREUPON POLICE ADVANCED USING WATER-CANNON AND TEAR GAS. POLICE MOVE SPURRED CROWD INTO VIOLENT SHOUTS AND ACTIONS, NOTABLY TEARING UP COBBLE-STONES AND HURLING THEM AT POLICE. DEMONSTRATORS WERE TEMPORARILY DISPERSED BY MOUNTED POLICE (GMR) CHARGE BUT IMMEDIATELY REGROUPED AND CHASED RETIRING MOUNTED POLICE THROWING STONES AND SHOUTING "FASCISTS." ANOTHER MOUNTED POLICE SORTIE ALSO RETIRED UPON BEING MET WITH STONE-THROWING ATTACKS. POLICE REFRAINED FROM USE OF TRUNCHEONS OR OTHER ARMS. COLUMN OF ARMY ARMORED CARS ALLOWED PASS PEACEFULLY THROUGH CROWD AND THEREAFTER CROWD REVERTED TO SLOGANEERING.

2. CROWD OF MRPP MILITANTS AND ONLOOKERS REMAINING IN AREA WAS SWELLED TO SOME 500 LATER IN EVENING BY AFTER-DINNER PROMENADERS (INCLUDING EMBOFF AND WIFE). MOOD BY THEN RELAXED, CROWD DIVIDING INTO SMALL DISCUSSION GROUPS WHERE, TYPICALLY, CIVILIAN WOULD ADVANCE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF RELEASE PERALTA WHICH SIMPLE SOLDIER (NO OFFICERS SEEN) WOULD REBUT. SOME SOLDIERS FELL BACK ON NECESSITY FOLLOW ORDERS OF THEIR COMMANDERS WHO MUST HAVE GOOD REASONS EVEN IF THESE COULD NOT BE REVEALED. OTHERS ARGUED THAT AMNESTY AND TRIBUNAL RELEASE ORDER DID NOT APPLY TO PERALTA, SINCE HE PRISONER OF WAR NOT POLITICAL PERSONER; ONE PARACHUTIST SERGEANT WAS OVERHEARD TO SAY PERALTA DESERVED NO MERCY HAVING HELPED KILL OR MAIM SERGEANT'S COMRADES; ONE CIVILIAN SAID MERCENARY DESERVED NO SYMPATHY.

3. AT 2300, MRPP SPOKESMAN THROUGH LOUD-HAILER SUMMED UP. PERALTA WAS NOBLE FIGHTER IN CAUSE AFRICAN FREEDOM AND SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED NOT EXCHANGED FOR CIA AGENT. JUNTA HAD PROVED IT SIMPLY CONTINUATION OF FASCISM BY HOLDING PERALTA WHILE RELEASING THOMAZ AND CAETANO INTO EXILE, BY PREVENTING COVERAGE OF EVENTS AT ESTRELA SQUARE BY REPORTING TEAMS FROM TWO LOCAL RADIO STATIONS, BY USING POLICE AGAINST CROWD (EVEN THOUGH HE ADMITTED POLICE ACTED WITH RESTRAINT). PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING "SO-CALLED SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS", BY ACQUIESCING IN JUNTA'S ACTIONS PROVED THAT ITS MINISTERS WERE MERE PUPPETS OF JUNTA.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LISBON 02108 271340Z

4. JUNTA, MEANWHILE, THROUGH OFFICE OF CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF ARMED FORCES (COSTA GOMES), ISSUED COMMUNIQUE REFERRING TO DEMANDS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF "EXTREME-LEFT" POLITICAL GROUPS FOR RELEASE PERALTA, DESPITE FACT THAT ARMY OFFICERS HAD AFFIRMED THAT HIS CASE NOT COVERED BY ANY POST-APRIL 25 LEGISLATION. COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT ATTITUDES TAKEN BY DEMONSTRATORS COULD LEAD TO CONFRONTATION WITH ARMED FORCES WHICH WOULD MAKE DEMONSTRATORS GUILTY OF CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER AND CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY.

COMMUNIQUE ENDED BY CALLING UPON LISBON POPULACE AND PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION TO AVOID REINFORCING ATTITUDES WHICH DO NOT SERVE THE HIGHER INTERESTS OF THE NATION.

5. COMMENT: JUNTA APPEARS SO FAR TO HAVE WEATHERED ITS FIRST SERIOUS CRISIS. IT HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY MOB STREET ACTION, THAT IT IS PREPARED TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY, THOUGH WITH RELUCTANCE AND RESTRAINT, AND, THOUGH PRESENCE OF MILITARY UNITS IN AREA WHO WERE NOT CALLED INTO ACTION, THAT IT HAS RESERVE STRENGTH TO CALL UPON IF REQUIRED TO DO SO. IN THIS INSTANCE, JUNTA IS BEING FIRM IN A CLEARLY UNPOPULAR CAUSE, HAS GIVEN VIRTUALLY NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ITS DECISION, AND IS ON SOMEWHAT SHAKY GROUND WITH RESPECT TO BAN ON RADIO COVERAGE OF ESTRELA EVENTS, HAVING PROCLAIMED END TO CENSORSHIP. JUNTA HAS BEEN FORTUNATE THAT ITS IMMEDIATE ANTAGONISTS OVER THIS ISSUE ARE GROUPS AT EXTREME LEFT, WITH WHOM EVEN ORTHODOX PCP COMMUNISTS HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY. HOWEVER, SEEMS LIKELY NOW THAT MORE RESPECTABLE VOICES WILL BE ASKING FOR EXPLANATION WHICH COULD COMPLICATE JUNTA'S HANDLING OF PERALTA AFFAIR. SCOTT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JUNTA, POLITICAL PRISONERS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON02108
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740132-0921
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740516/aaaaanpq.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 2107 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUNTA WEATHERS STORM OVER CONTINUED DETENTION CUBAN CAPTAIN PERALTA
TAGS: PFOR, US, PO, (PERALTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005